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BATTLEFORCE
SMALL UNIT ACTIONS IN THE 31st CENTURY
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The BLACK SHEEP

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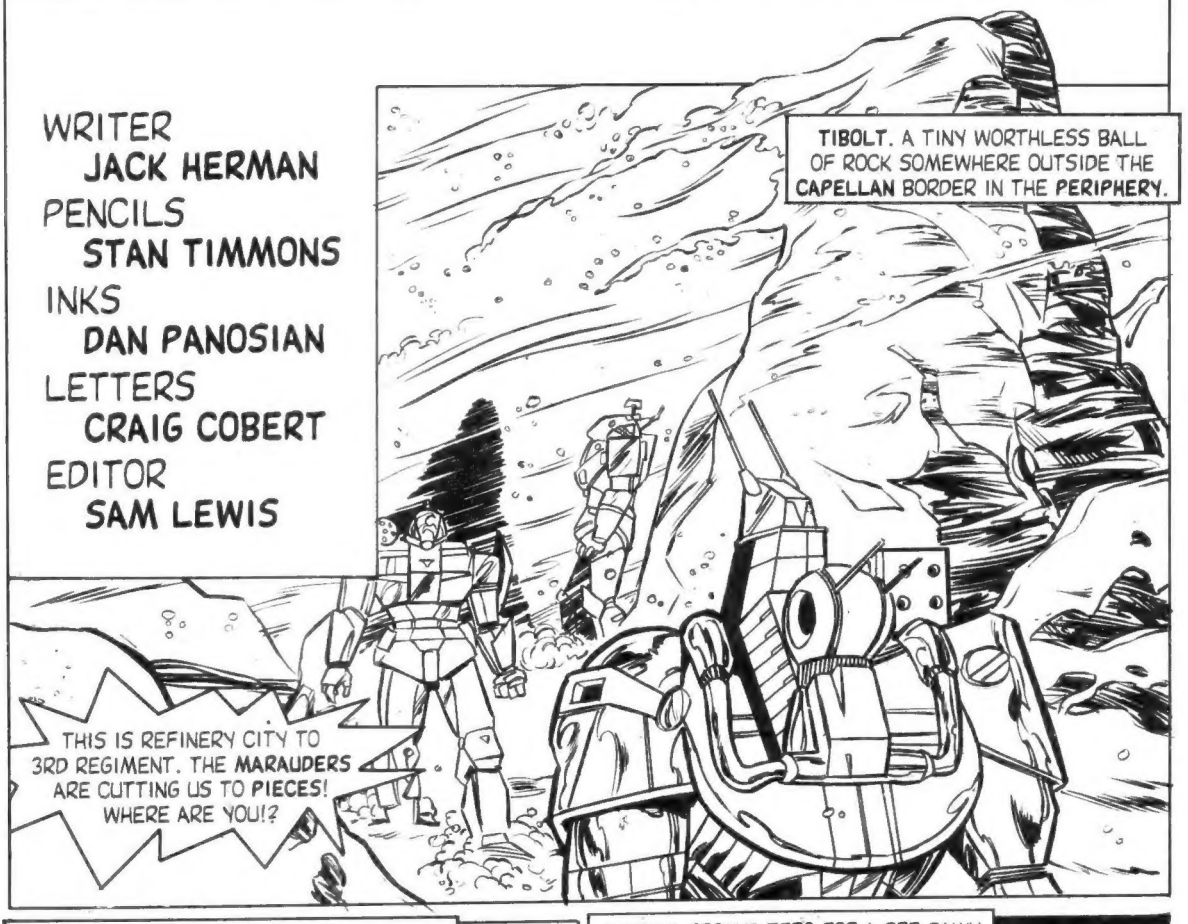
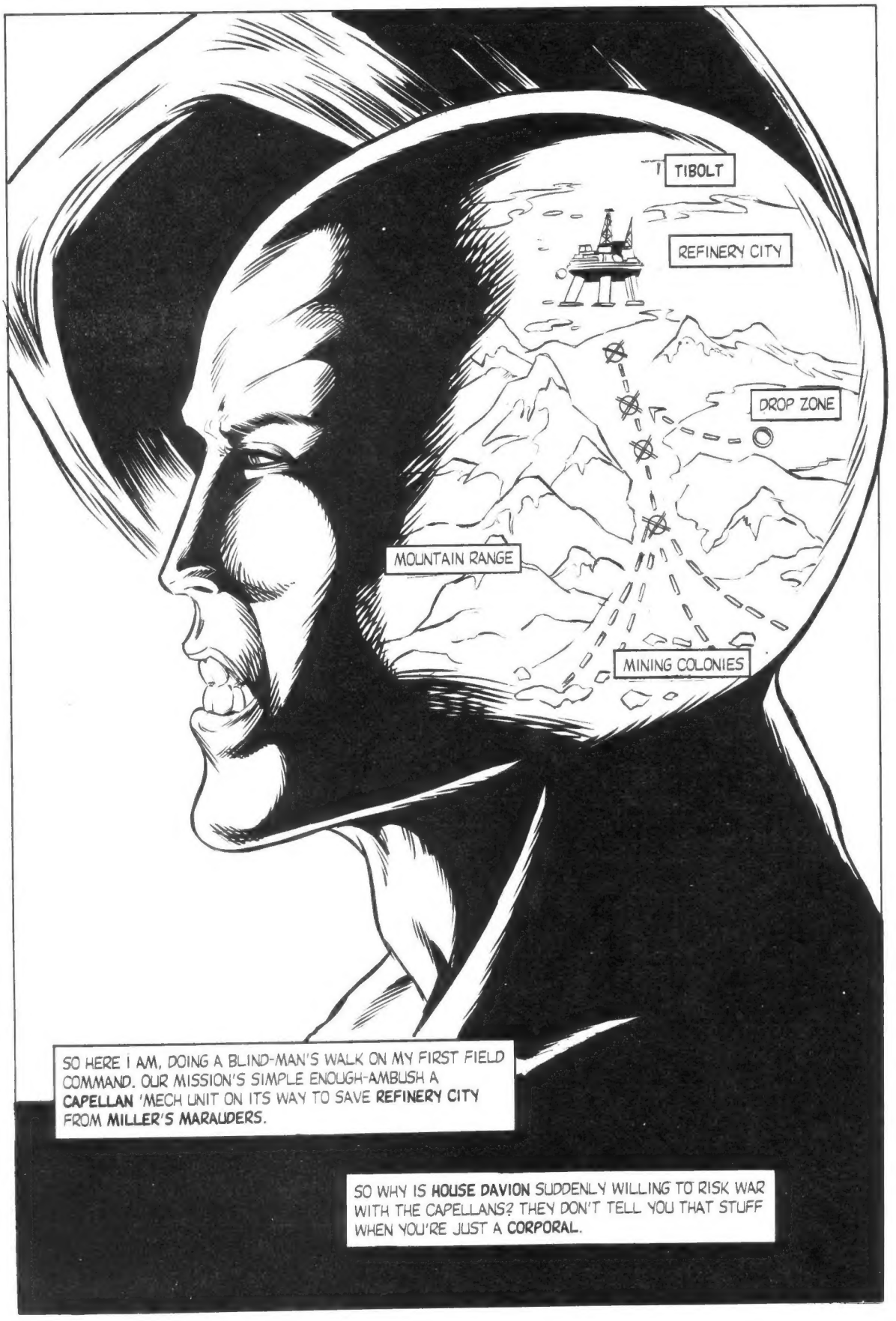

TIBOLT. A TINY WORTHLESS BALL OF ROCK SOMEWHERE OUTSIDE THE CAPELLAN BORDER IN THE PERIPHERY.
THIS IS REFINERY CITY TO 3RD REGIMENT. THE MARAUDERS ARE CUTTING US TO PIECES! WHERE ARE YOU!?

TIBOLT. A PLACE WITH AN ATMOSPHERE OF SULPHUR, FOG, AND RAIN. ON A CLEAR NIGHT VISIBILITY IS ALMOST TEN METERS.
COME IN, RC.
WE'RE SLOGGING IN AS FAST AS WE CAN. WE'LL SHOW UP IN TIME TO SAVE YOUR BUTTS OR BURY 'EM.

TIBOLT. GROUND ZERO FOR A PRE-DAWN INSERTION OF THE CRUCIS LANCERS.
NICE WEATHER. WHO'S IDEA WAS THIS?
CAN IT, NASH. TAKE THE POINT, SPONO. OUR TARGET SHOULD BE A FEW KLIKS AWAY.

DAMN. THIS IS SCARY.
ARE YOU PICKING THEM UP?
I'VE GOT SOMETHING...
...IT'S FADING IN AND OUT. THEY MUST BE OVER THOSE HILLS.
LET'S PARALLEL THEM AND TRY TO CATCH UP.
HEY NASH! HOW WE SUPPOSED TO **FIND** 'EM IF WE CAN'T **SEE** 'EM?
JUST PROTECT THE MAN IN FRONT OF YOU. NO MATTER **WHAT**.
34
YEAH, BUT WHO'S PROTECTIN' **ME**?
NASH?
NASH?


TIBOLT
REFINERY CITY
DROP ZONE
MOUNTAIN RANGE
MINING COLONIES
SO HERE I AM, DOING A BLIND-MAN'S WALK ON MY FIRST FIELD COMMAND. OUR MISSION'S SIMPLE ENOUGH-AMBUSH A **CAPELLAN** 'MECH UNIT ON ITS WAY TO SAVE **REFINERY CITY** FROM **MILLER'S MARAUDERS**.
SO WHY IS **HOUSE DAVION** SUDDENLY WILLING TO RISK WAR WITH THE CAPELLANS? THEY DON'T TELL YOU THAT STUFF WHEN YOU'RE JUST A **CORPORAL**.

MY SENSOR'S GONE OUT. PROBABLY THE COLD. I'M GOING TOPSIDE TO TAKE A LOOK.
DAMN WEATHER. CAN'T SEE A BLASTED...
...THING?
LORDY, LORDY!
LIGHT 'MECH UNIT, MY HEAT SINK!
ANOTHER INTELLIGENCE SCREW-UP!
GOT ANYTHING, SPONO?
OH, JUST A GRIFFIN, A SHADOWHAWK, A WOLVERINE AND A BLACKJACK! WHEN IT COMES TO TONNAGE, THEY'VE GOT US.
SO WHAT'S THE WORD?

HOUSE DAVION. NEW AVALON.
MY LIEGE, I BRING GRAVE NEWS FROM THE CAPELLAN MARCH.
WHAT IS IT?
OUR INFORMANTS TELL US THAT DUKE MICHEAL HAS ORDERED MILLERS MARAUDERS ONTO THE PLANET TIBOLT.
TIBOLT?
HOUSE LIAO IS TRYING TO SELL THE MINERAL RIGHTS TO THE CERES METAL TRADING CARTEL.
THEY VIEW OUR PRESENCE NOT ONLY AS AN ACT OF WAR BUT A SOURCE OF CONSIDERABLE EMBARASSMENT. THEY WILL MOST CERTAINLY RETALIATE.
PLACE THE CRUCIS LANCERS ON FULL ALERT.
YES, MY LIEGE.
WE WILL CONTINUE TO DENY ANY INVOLVEMENT.

I SHALL DEAL WITH DUKE MICHEAL.
PERMANENTLY.
Y-YES, MY LIEGE.
YOUR GENERALS AWAIT YOU IN THE COURTYARD. IT WOULD BE WISE TO PREPARE...
TELL THEM I WILL MEET THEM DIRECTLY.

WHAT IS YOUR FATHER PLANNING, MORGAN? WHAT DEVILISH SCHEME DOES HE HAVE, AND ARE YOU PART OF IT?
EITHER WOULD BE FITTING FOR YOUR SIRE'S TRANSGRESSIONS.
BUT I OWE YOU MY LIFE, AND YOU DESERVE BETTER. AS DOES THE DAVION GUARD BRIGADE.
THIS LITTLE ADVENTURE WILL REQUIRE ALL MY SKILLS OF STRATEGY AND DIPLOMACY. IF I FAIL, THERE'LL BE HELL FOR US ALL TO PAY.
SHOULD I THROW YOU IN IRONS? OR SEND YOUR HEAD BACK ON A PLATTER?

HEY JACKO! WHY'RE YOU OUT HERE BY YOUR LONESOME?
GOT LOST IN THIS STORM. MIND IF I TAG ALONG?
BE MY GUEST!
I MAKE THEM TO BE MCCARRAN'S CAVALRY. PROBABLY HIRED TO GUARD THE COLONIES.
HMMMM.
THEY OUT-GUN AND OUT-TON US. BUT NOT BY MUCH. MAYBE WE COULD SURPRISE THEM.
MAYBE. WE DON'T KNOW HOW SPREAD OUT THESE UNITS ARE. NO TELLING WHAT MIGHT SNEAK UP ON US!
LET'S GIVE IT A SHOT! LIKE THE MAN SAID, "THE WORLD NEEDS GUTS"!

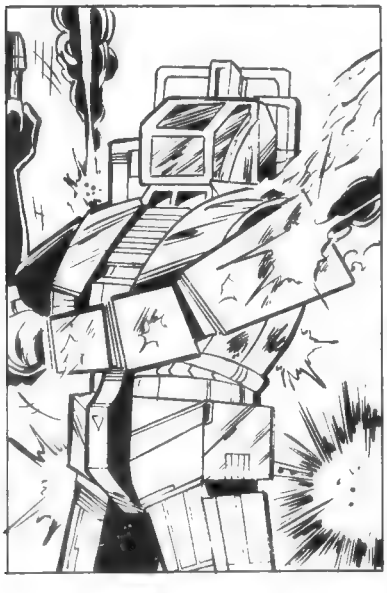
THAT'S THE ATTITUDE, NASH!!

GOOD GOD! WHERE DID THEY COME FROM!?
CYRILL! GET OUT OF THERE NOW!!
DON'T GO TOE-TO-TOE WITH THESE GUYS! HEAT 'EM UP AND KNOCK 'EM OUT!
AAAAAAAAAAAAAA!!!!
CYRILL'S DOWN!!
FORGET HIM! THERE'S STILL THREE ACTIVE TARGETS!!

CYRILL!!

CYRILL! YOU READ ME, MAN?
HE'S A GHOST! YOU WILL BE TOO, IF YOU DON'T MOVE!!
HE COULD'VE EJECTED!

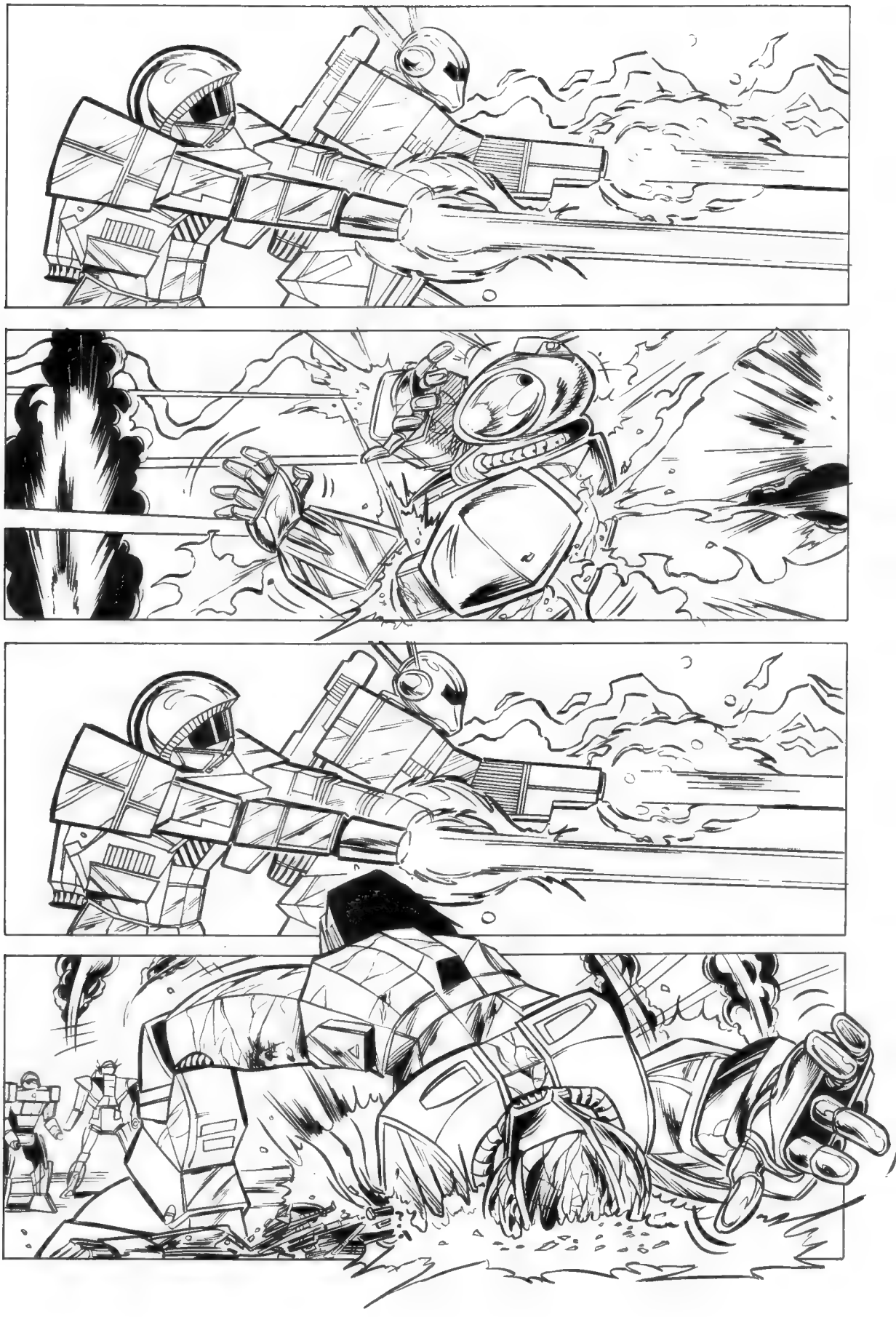
GGRRRRAAAAAA!!

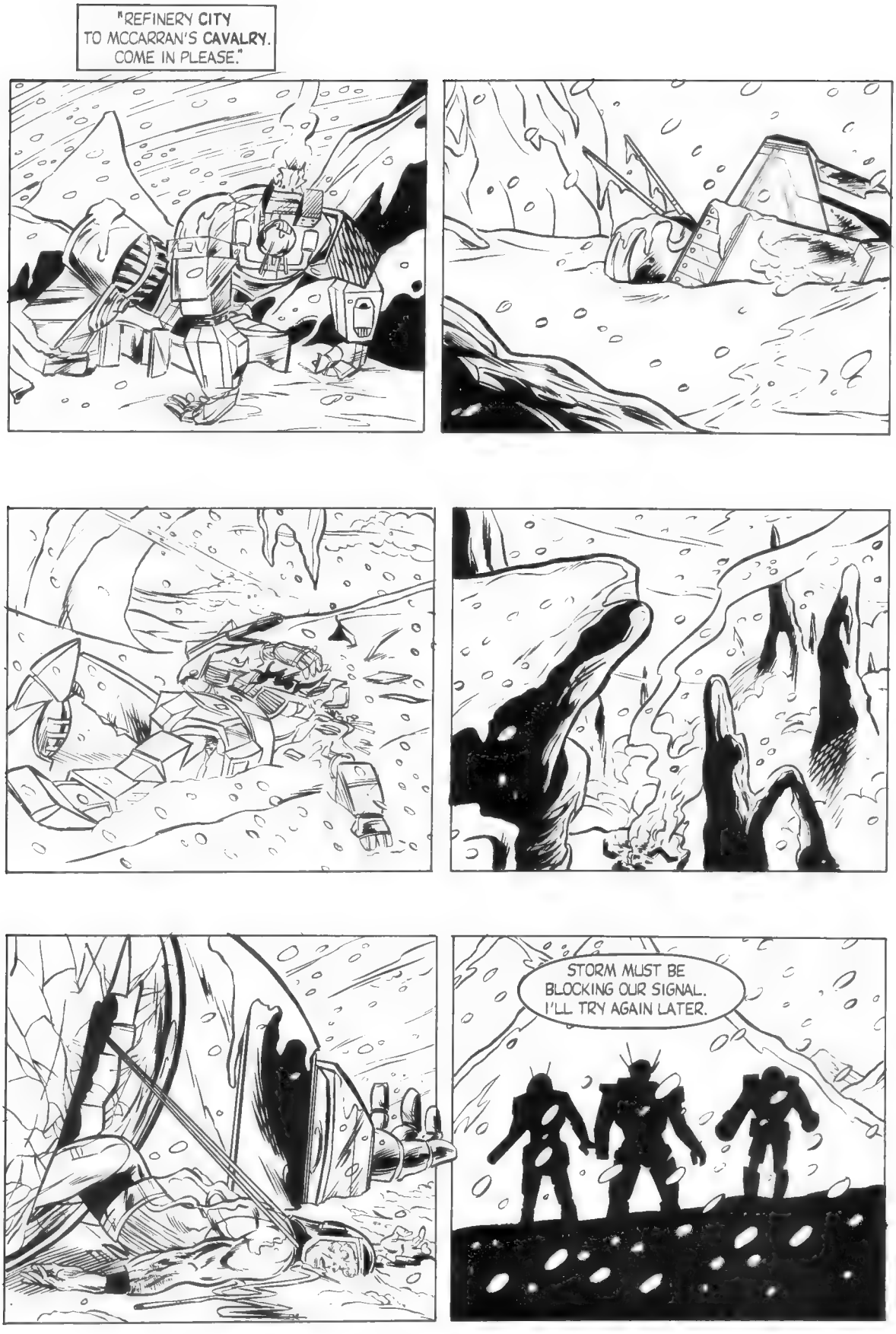


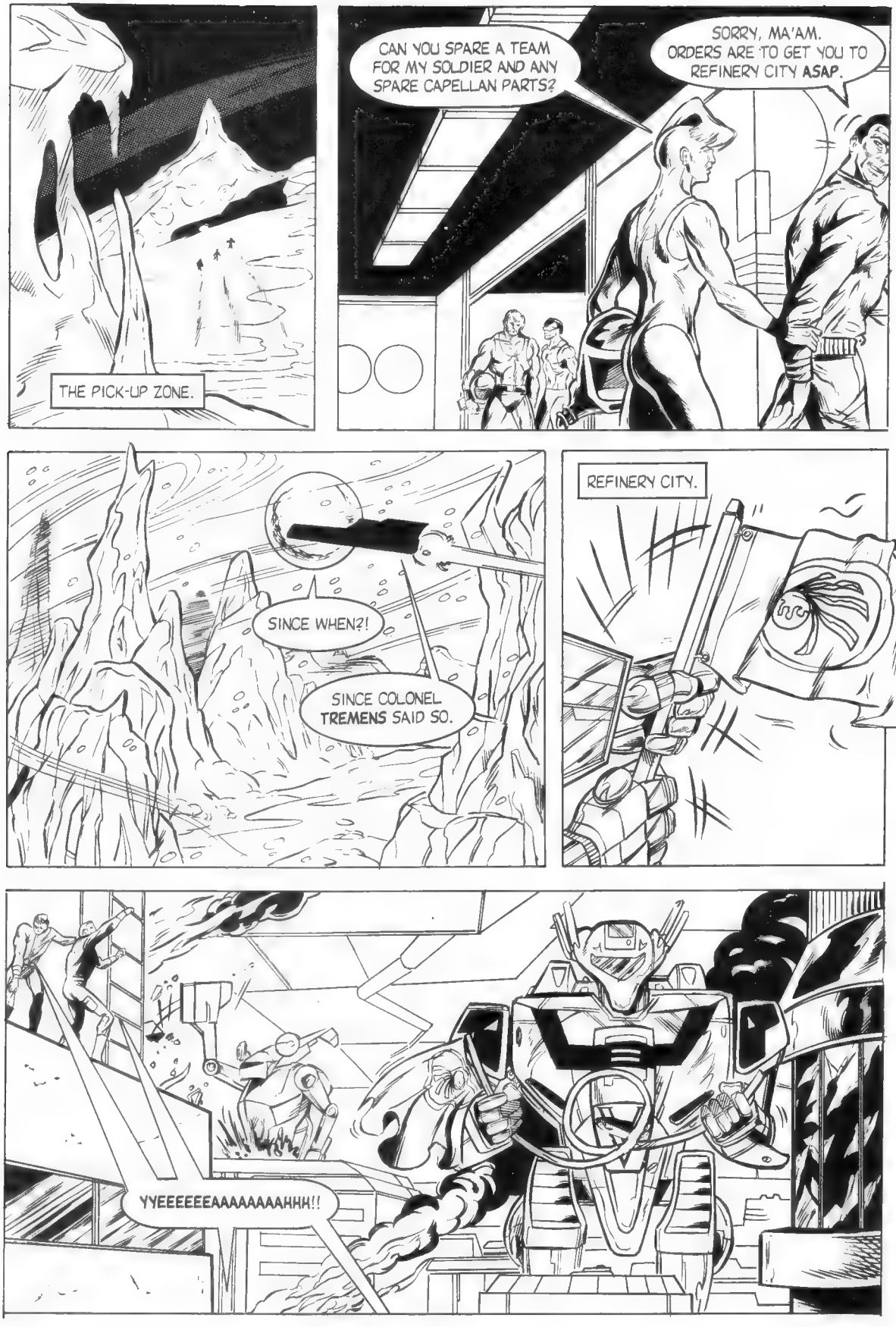
THEY'RE FROM FEDERATED SUNS! THIS MUST BE A FULL-SCALE INVASION!
KEEP ALERT! THERE MAY BE MORE OF THEM!
WE'RE PINNED DOWN FROOOOOLLLP!
FALL BACK! FALL BACK!
WE'VE GOT TO TIE IN WITH THE OTHER GROUPS!
AAAAAAAAAAAAAAA!!

"THIS IS REFINERY CITY
TO MCCARRAN'S ARMORED CAVALRY.
COME IN PLEASE"

"REFINERY CITY TO THIRD REGIMENT. COME IN PLEASE."




"REFINERY CITY TO MCCARRAN'S CAVALRY. COME IN PLEASE."
STORM MUST BE BLOCKING OUR SIGNAL. I'LL TRY AGAIN LATER.


THE PICK-UP ZONE.
CAN YOU SPARE A TEAM FOR MY SOLDIER AND ANY SPARE CAPELLAN PARTS?
SORRY, MA'AM. ORDERS ARE TO GET YOU TO REFINERY CITY **ASAP**.
SINCE WHEN?!
SINCE COLONEL **TREMENS** SAID SO.
REFINERY CITY.
YYEEEEEEAAAAAAAAHHH!!

NOT EXACTLY A VACATION SPOT.
HMMPH!

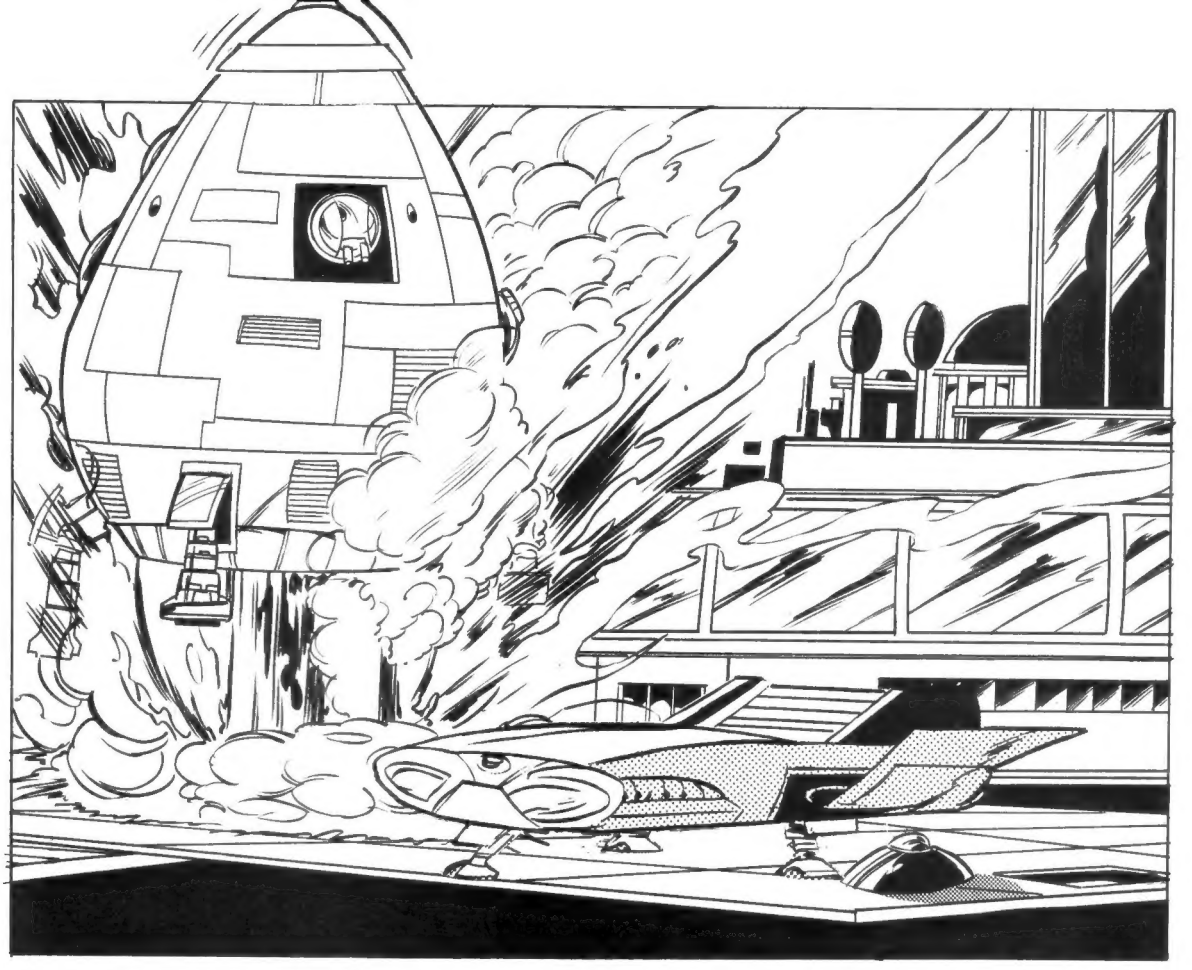
HOW'S THINGS AT REFINERY CITY, CORPORAL?
TOO MANY ENEMY UNITS. WHICH ARE HEADED THIS WAY.
HAVEN'T YOU HEARD? THE SHEEP LANCE FROM YOUR REGIMENT WIPED OUT THREE ENEMY UNITS! THEY'RE HEROES!
TERRIFIC.

AREN'T YOU WORRIED ABOUT THE CAPELLANS?
HELL, WE WON'T BE HERE LONG. WHY SHOULD WE, IF THEY DON'T PAY US?

'SCUSE ME PAL. BUT THAT WAS MY PAL YOU JUST SHOVED.

SOON...
ARCHEOLOGICAL VESSEL HOLOCROFT REQUESTING PERMISSION TO LAND AT REFINERY CITY. OVER.

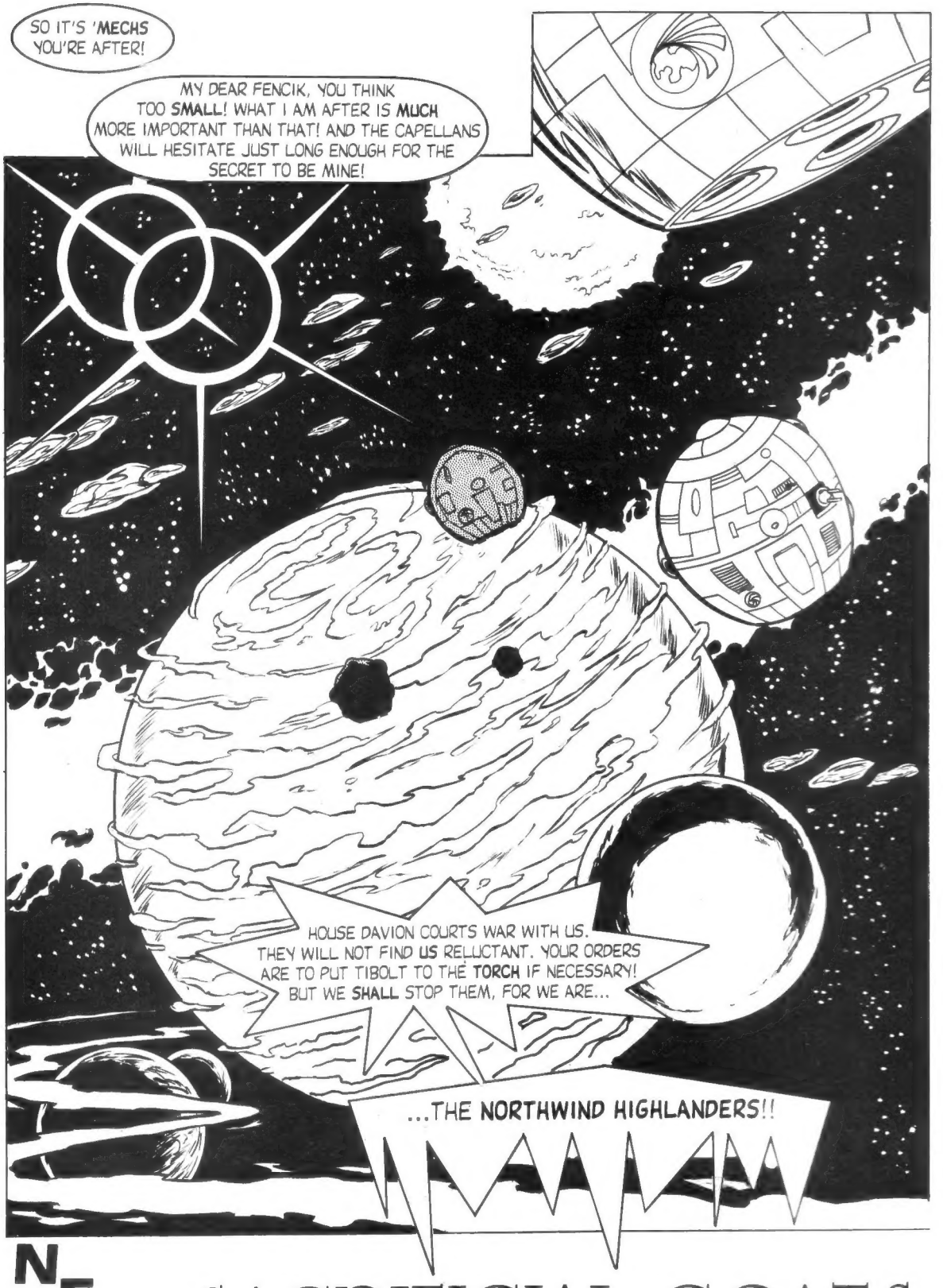
NEW SYRTIS.
WHAT DO YOU HOPE TO FIND ON TIBOLT?
ALL IN GOOD TIME, MY DEAR FENCIK.
IS IT WORTH RISKING A WAR WITH THE CAPELLANS?
THERE WILL BE NO WAR.
ARE YOU SURE, DUKE?
NO.



COME ON, MEN!
WE GOT WORK TO DO!

HOURS LATER...
MMMMMMMMMM
MMMMMMMMMMMMMM
MMMMMMMMMMMMM
HEY!
I'M THROUGH!

THERE'S SOMETHING DOWN THERE! LET'S CLEAR THIS OUT!
THAT'S GOT IT!
IT'S HERE! JUST LIKE THEY SAID IT WOULD BE!
GET THE SECONDARY TEAM DOWN HERE!


SO IT'S 'MECHS YOU'RE AFTER!
MY DEAR FENCIK, YOU THINK TOO SMALL! WHAT I AM AFTER IS MUCH MORE IMPORTANT THAN THAT! AND THE CAPELLANS WILL HESITATE JUST LONG ENOUGH FOR THE SECRET TO BE MINE!
HOUSE DAVION COURTS WAR WITH US. THEY WILL NOT FIND US RELUCTANT. YOUR ORDERS ARE TO PUT TIBOLT TO THE TORCH IF NECESSARY! BUT WE SHALL STOP THEM, FOR WE ARE...
...THE NORTHWIND HIGHLANDERS!!

NEXT SACRIFICIAL GOATS